

**Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission
Full Board Minutes
211 N. Gear Avenue, West Burlington, IA 52655
September 28, 2017**

Members Present: Mark Huston, Gary Folluo, Greg Moeller, David Varley, Bob Beck, Ron Sadler, Dr. Steve Titus, Richard Taylor, Paula Buckman, Bob Hesler, Brad Quigley, Tom Richardson, and Jim Davidson

Members Absent: Brent Schleisman, Hans Trousil, Dr. Michael Ash, Klay Edwards, and Aaron Burnett

Staff Present: Mike Norris, Debbie Laughlin, Jeff Hanan, Roger Keller, Zach James, and Lori Gilpin

Call to order at 12:03 p.m. by Mark Huston.

Agenda Approval

Motion by Folluo to approve the September 28, 2017 agenda, second by Sadler. All Ayes, motion carried.

Consent Agenda Approval

Norris stated that goose deterrents are in place on the pond. Carpet quotes have been received for the atrium and entry stairs, and the first phase of carpet replacement (as needed) will begin in the next 30 days. Norris met with other representatives of the Iowa DOT, County engineers, and public works officials and RPAs and MPOs as part of the federal/state transportation fund swap process. The idea is for local sponsors to do less work and have fewer federal requirements (environmental, Davis Bacon, etc.) to increase available dollars for projects. June, July, and August financials are presented, showing SEIRPC in a solid financial position, however, Federal Transit subsidy funds will be withheld until a solution is found with US DOT/Iowa DOT due to Chapter 20 conflicting with federal rules. Motion by Titus to accept the consent agenda, second by Moeller. All Ayes, motion passed.

Old Business

1. Department Reports: Hanan highlighted the Development Department report stating that RLF is continuing to work on a sizable project in Mount Pleasant. The South 9th St., Burlington, (Southeast Iowa Housing, Inc. project) is completed and the home is listed for sale for \$79,000. The next Housing, Inc. project will be in Keokuk. We are currently securing the local match for the next round of funding from IFA for GRHTF. We are applying for \$312,000 and needing the local match of \$78,000. Staff is continuing to provide community outreach during the month of October presenting information to interested communities regarding funding opportunities for projects. James stated Iowa DOT informed us that they have developed a process to satisfy the Federal Highway Administration, and that not all details have been finalized, but they expect to be able to accept applications for the regional Transportation Alternative Funding (TAP) in October. The Iowa Department of Public Health has reached out to see if SEIRPC would be interested in assisting them with Complete

Streets Education efforts, which would likely begin in early 2018. James highlighted the recently funded grants and upcoming grant opportunities. Keller stated that SEIBUS provided shuttle service at the 2017 Midwest Old Threshers Reunion with 104% increase of rides on buses driven by SEIBUS (7,016 vs. 3441 in 2016). SEIBUS also provided shuttle service at the 2017 Tri-State Rodeo in Fort Madison with a 76% increase for shuttle rides (1,330 rides vs. 753 in 2016). Starting September 7th, SEIBUS expanded its Henry County services to include Wayland Iowa residents transportation to shop and run errands in Mount Pleasant every other Thursday. No action necessary.

2. Housing, Inc. (Southeast Iowa Housing, Inc.) Update: Norris stated that in the past 12 months, Housing, Inc. has completed or initiated several projects: Mount Pleasant, new home built and sold (2016); Burlington, home acquired, rehabbed, for sale (2017); Keokuk, lot acquired, bids released for new home (2017); Donnellson, meetings with Central Lee Schools and Donnellson to build homes (2017); and Morning Sun, early discussions to build on city-owned lots (2017). Please be on the lookout in your areas for new partnerships. The role of a non-profit developer is finding partnerships in southeast Iowa. Common themes are lack of housing options for various income levels, and lack of quality housing, and lack of new housing. SEIRPC and Housing, Inc. contributes only one part toward success. Schools, cities and counties each have roles to play in changing our housing inventory for the region. No action necessary.
3. CEDS (Comprehensive Economic Development Study Update: James stated that Great River Region CEDS is the long-range plan for Des Moines, Henry, Lee and Louisa Counties developed by Southeast Iowa Regional Planning to move the region forward on shared strategies regarding economic development, community development and transportation. The CEDS is important for many reasons including: Maintaining the Economic Development District status for Southeast Iowa; a Long-Range Transportation Plan for Iowa DOT; adding regional weight to ideas, and strategies, and projects for funding opportunities. Norris stated that staff received 300 survey responses and interviewed approximately 16 people/groups (4 in each county) focusing on the healthcare industry, education, private industry, and local governments in the public participation process. Next steps are to meet in October 2017 to develop regional priorities, goals and objectives based on data and input received; October – November 2017 to hold subcommittee meetings; and October 2017 to January 2018 – begin development of a draft CEDS document. No action necessary.

New Business

1. Building Remediation Grant Update: Norris stated that in 2017, the Iowa Legislature adopted legislation creating a “Community Catalyst Building Remediation Program” to be operated by the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA). This program is to provide grants to cities to help remediate underutilized buildings that will serve as a catalyst for new development in the city. Norris highlighted the program noting: Total funding is \$1 million, with \$400,000 allocated to cities of 1,500 population or less; Some match is required (cash or in-kind); The project must implement a community plan; Underutilized means vacant or mostly vacant, a nuisance, or heavily

blighted; IEDA will publicize grant application periods; and pre-application is required with up to \$5,000 technical assistance available from IEDA to assist in project development. Please let us know if you are interested in a project. No action necessary.

MATTERS FROM THE FLOOR:

None.

Motion to adjourn meeting by Davidson, second by Folluo. All Ayes

Meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Submitted by Debbie Laughlin

Mike Norris, Executive Director

Mark Huston, Secretary

Date: _____

Date: _____